

Dear Committee Members,

I am a children's book author who participated in Newtown's first school assembly after the tragedy. I have met these kids. I have seen the faces of these teachers and learned a little about how they are trying to cope with the event that has changed their lives forever. Today is three-month anniversary of the shooting. Three months! The people of Connecticut are begging you to do the right thing. It is past time to enact bills that:

1. Amend the assault weapon sales ban to require that such weapons only have one military style feature (and lists the most prevalent models of assault weapons to ensure they are included)
2. BAN the sale **and possession** of all high capacity ammunition magazines capable of holding more than ten rounds. Not just future sales. The boy that was killed when Gabby Giffords was shot was killed with the 13th bullet. The kids that escaped Newtown fled when the shooter was reloading. It matters!
3. Require universal background checks.

No one is saying that hunters can't hunt. But they don't need guns designed for warfare to do so.

We know that you are discussing a range of bills today, but they are not enough. We want comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation and we want and need it NOW. We are following your discussions and your votes and will continue to do so.

Eighty people die every day that we sit and bicker about this. We can do something. It's just common sense. If we can regulate cars, we can regulate guns. Thank you for doing the right thing and doing it without delay!

Sincerely,
Susan Hood
Fairfield, CT